



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

April 23, 2017
*We celebrate LaGrange
College Sunday at all
services.*

***Morning Glory**
8:45am in the Fellowship Hall

***Early Worship Service**
9:00am in the Chapel

***Traditional Service**
11:00am in the Sanctuary

***Korean Worship Service**
11:00am in the Chapel

April 30, 2017
*We celebrate Safe Families
Sunday at all services.*

***Morning Glory**
8:45am in the Fellowship Hall

***Early Worship Service**
9:00am in the Sanctuary

***Traditional Service**
11:00am in the Sanctuary

***Korean Worship Service**
11:00am in the Chapel

***Child care is provided.**

**** Story Hour** is for 2 & 3 yr. olds in Room 107 of the Children's Building from 11am to 12 noon.

Children's Church is for ages 3rd grade & younger. Children attending the early services will dismiss to the Small Dining Room in the MMC building; 11:00am service children will dismiss to Room 203 in the Children's building.



"True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us." (James 1:27)

In the last week of 2007, Chicago was shocked by the actions of a young mother who quietly exited a train with her 3-year-old daughter, leaving behind her two sons, ages 6 and 4. Fellow passengers frantically attempted to get the mother's attention, but she walked away, abandoning her young boys. Similar incidents of parents unable to care for their children occur with greater frequency than many of us are aware, and not just in big cities.

Here in LaGrange/Troup County, as well, many parents often find it difficult to care adequately for their children during times of crisis. For example, under current economic conditions, many families experience financial crisis, unemployment, and homelessness. Often these situations result in, or are made worse, by other hardships such as family violence, drug or alcohol abuse, physical or mental illness, or incarceration.

"Safe Families for Children" [www.safe-families.org] is a volunteer movement across the U.S., U.K., Canada, and Africa that connects the children of parents in distress with host families from local churches who've answered God's call to open their hearts, arms and homes to serve vulnerable children in need.

The experience starts at church, where host families are invited not only to change the lives of a fellow family for the better, but to enrich their own with untold blessings by living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. By hosting vulnerable children temporarily (on average slightly less than 40 days) along with support from the church, this extended family environment helps children (usually 5 years old or younger) safe and reunite families (93% return to their parent or relative).

Since its beginning in 2003, Safe Families has placed over 20,000 children in host families in over 1,000 participating churches across the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and Africa; and **Sunday, April 30th**, our church, sponsored locally under the umbrella of Twin Cedars Youth and Family Services, will be officially added to this number as we become a partner congregation of this international ministry.

I hope you will join me on that day not only during worship but also for the **"no-strings-attached" luncheon at 12 Noon** in the Fellowship Hall where we'll have a brief program sharing more details about this ministry and how you can be a part of it. The Bible is clear that – among other things -- one of our tasks as followers of Jesus is to look after the needs of at-risk children and other vulnerable people (the "orphans and widows" of the above James 1:27 scripture).

I am excited that our church (through the leadership of our Missions Committee) has chosen to partner with Twin Cedars to become a "Safe Families for Children" church. To find out more how you can become involved, be sure to attend worship and the luncheon on Sunday, April 30th, or, if you have to miss that day, you can email missions@lagrangefumc.org.

Always remember that God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

Wednesday Evening Weekly
Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm

WEW Meal on April 26, 2017

Menu: Baked Chicken, Sweet Potato Fries,
Sautéed Green Beans, Salad Bar, Dessert
Children: Corndogs & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on May 3, 2017

Menu: Taco Salad, Dessert.

Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

Call or email the Church Office at 884-4635 by NOON
on MONDAY to make your meal reservation.

The cost is \$0 for those 2 years & under, \$3 for those
3 years-12th grade, and \$6 for adults.

Thursday Lunch Club
May 4th, 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall



For reservations for the meal & program, call or email the church at
706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.
Cost is \$6 per person. All are welcome!

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorials

Mrs. Martha Dodgen (Sharon McLaughlin's Mother) -
Virginia Robertson

Morgan & Eleanor Reid - Nancy Reid

Bill Burnett - The Ivey Family

H. E. Ivey - The Ivey Family

ALTAR GUILD LUNCHEON

The Altar Guild will meet for a luncheon on Monday,
May 8th, at 12 noon in the Small Dining Room. What a
perfect time to enjoy a meal and fellowship with
your friends while finding out about the Altar Guild.
Call or email the Church Office at 706-884-4635 or
churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org to make
your reservation!

**READY TO BECOME A
LAGRANGE FIRST MEMBER?**

Our upcoming **Decision Sunday Celebration Lunch** from
12:15-1:00pm on **Sunday, May 7th**, is designed for you
to officially claim the place you've already found here at
LaGrange First in a setting outside a regular worship
service. No coming down the aisle. No standing in front
of a congregation -- just you and others like you becoming
church members as you enjoy fellowship and brunch
together.

Reserve your spot at
<http://www.lagrangefumc.org/ready-to-become-a-member>
by Wednesday, May 3rd, and complete the "Ready to Be-
come A Member?" form there. For more information,
contact Pastor Brian or Pastor Blake at the Church
Office (706-884-4635) or at brian@lagrangefumc.org
or blake@lagrangefumc.org.

Save These Dates
Church "Town Hall" Meeting

Long Range Planning wants to hear from you as they
work to discover God's next vision for LaGrange First
UMC. Save the date for one of the following three
Town Hall sessions and come share your wishes and
desires for ministry in our church.

- Sunday, May 7th, 10:00am, Fellowship Hall**
- Sunday, May 7th, 4:00pm, Fellowship Hall**
- Wednesday, May 10th, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall**



LaGrange First UMC
is seeking a Director
of Children's
Ministry. This
position will be
responsible for
leading & developing
a comprehensive
children's ministry,

birth through 5th grade, that includes the full-time
coordination of our Summer Day Camp Ministry. This
position is part-time during the school year (with potential
growth to full-time) and full time during the summer months.
Applicants should possess a bachelor's degree or equivalent,
and prior experience leading children's ministry is preferred.
Compensation is based on experience, and the complete
job description is available upon request. Interested persons
should submit resumés to LaGrange First UMC at
sprc@lagrangefumc.org.

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
Calling all couples who have been married
(to the same person) for 50 years!



If you *have celebrated or will celebrate*
your 50th wedding anniversary anytime in
2017, please call or email the church office
at 706-884-4635 or
churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

We want to make sure you are in the 50th
Wedding Anniversary Group, and we want
you to join us on Sunday, June 4th, at the
11:00 Worship Service to be recognized.

There will be a luncheon after the worship service in the
Fellowship Hall. You need to call or email the church office
by Thursday, June 1st, to make your reservation to attend
the luncheon.



The Evangelism Committee is excited about our church's new Welcome Team!

This Welcome Team is a new spin on the original Andrew Team, and we are looking for volunteers to play a vital role in this ministry.

If you would like to be on the team that welcomes new visitors to our church, email or call Terri Cook, Evangelism Chair, at terricook12@gmail.com or 770-548-3918.

You Can Also Serve as a Greeter.

Did you know that our greeters have one of the most important responsibilities in our church! A new visitor usually encounters these smiling faces and pleasant attitudes first and will form his first impression of our church at that time. This makes a tremendous impact on how our visitors feel about LaGrange First UMC.

Thank you, Greeters, for all that you do to help with this ministry!!

Greeter Training @ 10am, April 23rd, Sanctuary Narthex
Welcome Team Orientation @10am, April 23rd, in the Fellowship Hall



Camp Viola 2017

Our church's week to host Camp Viola this summer is **June 5th — June 8th.**

We anticipate 45 to 50 rising 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to join us for our week of camp.

This important ministry takes a commitment from You to make it happen. Rick Free will lead this ministry, and he needs your volunteer help. Donations are essential to sponsor the children's camp experience. Please email rick@lagrangefumc.org to let him know he can count on your help.

The cost to sponsor one child is \$125.00. If you wish to sponsor one or more campers, make your check payable to the church, marked Camp Viola.

Every year our Camp Viola week continues to be one the best weeks in the life of our church family. Let's work together to keep this ministry alive.



Dodgeball — Get Set — Throw

Our youth program is for students in 6th grade through 12th grade. If this fits you, come join us this Sunday, April 30th, from 5 to 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. As you can see from the picture above, we will have some dodgeball fun this week.

C. J. Lord & Harrison Pollard, Youth Leaders



Thank You

to everyone for the overwhelming support of the **Rise Against Hunger** mission. Many people helped to "Change the World" by saving their change during Lent and/or making donations.

We now have enough funds to purchase and pack 16,000 meals. You will hear more about this in the fall when we have our packing event.

**In a change container, a special coin was discovered. If this was your coin, please call the church office at 706-884-4635.*



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USPS (079-260) IS PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY BY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

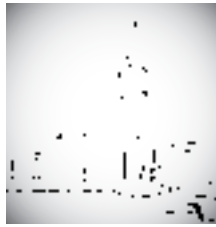
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 After-Hours Pastoral Emergencies: 888-456-1203
 E-Mail address churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org
 Web Site: www.lagrangefumc.org
www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com

Postmaster: Send Address Change to
 The Flame, 401 Broad Street
 LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Miss Grayson Bailey (ext 209).....Director of Children’s Ministry
- Mr. Rick Free (ext 210).....Director of Food Services
- Dr. Brian Germano (ext 205).....Senior Pastor
- Mr. Eddie Giddens.....Custodian
- Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager
- Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
- Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Director of Mid High Youth
- Mr. Greg Nichols.....Morning Glory Worship Leader
- Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
- Mr. Harrison Pollard (ext 215).....Director of Senior High Youth
- Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Church Administrator
- Rev. Blake Trent (ext 206).....Associate Pastor

To reach all other employees and/or volunteers,
 please call the church office.

We always look forward to hearing from you.



*Christians . . .
 SERVING,
 CARING,
 & SHARING*

Non Profit Periodical
 U.S. Postage
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 PERMIT NO. 079260
 LaGrange, GA 30240

ATTENDANCE , Sunday, April 9

Sunday School.....205
 Worship Service.....303

ATTENDANCE , Sunday, April 16

Sunday School.....197
 Worship Service.....944



FUMC Summer Day Camp
Still accepting registrations!
 Ages: Rising Kindergarten through
 Rising 6th Grade
 Cost per week: \$125/Church Members, \$135/
 Non-Members
Camp Counselor and Student Camper
 Applications are now being received for this
 year’s camp.

All applications are online (lagrangefumc.org) and in the Church Office.
 For questions, email dayschool@lagrangefumc.org or call (706) 884-4635.

Supporting Our Ministries
 In addition to traditional giving methods (cash & check), you can also donate to First United Methodist Church via Text-to-Give (Text LGFUMC to 73256) or online at lagrangefumc.org/online-giving.

Calendar for April 23 - April 29

<p>Sunday *Worship Services *10:00am.....Sunday School 12:00pm.....Stephen Ministry Luncheon 5:00pm.....Disciple Bible Study</p> <p>Monday 11:30am-12:00.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen 5:30pm.....El Salvador Trip Meeting 5:45pm.....Stewardship Committee</p> <p>Tuesday 9:00am.....Community Care 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class 5:15pm.....Finance Committee 6:00pm.....Church Council 7:00pm.....Morning Glory Band Rehearsal 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts</p> <p>Wednesday 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal 5:30pm.....Handbells Rehearsal 5:45pm.....M.E.R.G.E & Children’s Choir 6:00pm.....Believe Bible Study 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir</p> <p>Thursday 9:00am.....Community Care 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry 10:00am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal 5:00pm.....Discipleship & Spiritual Growth Committee 5:30pm.....Board of Trustees</p> <p>Friday 7:00am.....Men’s Coffee & Prayer Group</p> <p>Saturday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Calendar for April 30 - May 6</p> <p>Sunday *Worship Services *10:00am.....Sunday School 12:00.....Safe Families Luncheon 5:00pm.....Youth Sunday Night Live</p> <p>Monday 11:30am-12:00am.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen 5:00pm.....UMW Executive Board</p> <p>Tuesday 9:00am.....Community Care 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class 12:30pm.....Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts 7:00pm.....Morning Glory Band Rehearsal</p> <p>Wednesday 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal 5:30pm.....Handbells Rehearsal 5:45pm.....M.E.R.G.E & Children’s Choir 6:00pm.....Believe Bible Study 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir</p> <p>Thursday 9:00am.....Community Care 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry 10:00am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal 12:00.....Thursday Lunch Club Luncheon 6:00pm.....Long Range Planning</p> <p>Friday 7:00am.....Men’s Coffee & Prayer Group</p> <p>Saturday</p>
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Our Sympathy is extended to the following families:

Russell and Becky Davis & family in the death of his mother, **Betty Davis, April 2, 2017**

Pat and Pearce Wyche & family in the death of her sister, **Lonedta Campbell, April 14, 2017**



Thank you to everyone who participated in making this Lenten Season and Holy Week special and meaningful for our church family.